(b) Total 36 number of CRF proposals amounting to Rs. 322.46 Cr. have been sanctioned and an amount of Rs. 125.19 Cr. has been released during 2003-04 & 2004-05 till date.

Toll Tax on National Highways

1562. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the toll tax being charged on the National Highways at present is uniform throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The users' fee charged on National Highway sections depends on the length of the four lane National Highway section or the cost of the bridge. However, the capping rates *i.e.* the maximum unit rate of users' fee applicable to four lane National Highways sections and bridges are uniformly applied at the time of notifying the quantum of users' fee in each case.

Projects of Ministry of Shipping

1563. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shipping Ministry has approved 18 projects involving private investment worth Rs. 6,000 crore;

(b) whether it is a fact that out of 18 projects, work has started on as many as 13 projects and projects involving private investment of more than Rs. 3,400 crore are under the Government's consideration; and

(c) if so, the details of proposed projects?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) 19 projects involving private sector investment at an estimated cost of Rs. 6445.20 crores have so far been approved by the competent authority. Out of these, 13 projects have become operational. In addition to these 19 projects, there are 16 other projects in various major ports where bids are contemplated/invited involving a total

investment of approximately Rs. 3260 crores. These projects include development of container terminals, general cargo berths, iron ore berths, liquid cargo berth, LNG terminal, coal berth and are likely to result in additional capacity of about 50 million tonnes per annum.

Ahmedabad-Vadodara Express Highway

1564. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after the completion of Ahmedabad-Vadodara Express Highways, it is not being utilized;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) by when it would start operating?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway Phase-I (Km.0.00 to km 43.40) was opened to traffic on 28.01.2003 and Phase-II (km. 43.40 to Km. 93.65) was opened to traffic on 24.08.2004.

Old bridges on National Highways

1565. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ever conducted any study on old bridges on National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such National Highways on which old bridges exist;

(c) whether some of these bridges are in dilapidated condition; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to repair these bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (c) Yes, Sir.